



Bob Riley
GOVERNOR

Alabama Department of
REHABILITATION SERVICES



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COMMISSIONER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Governor signs proclamation that recognizes individuals who are blind and deaf

MONTGOMERY - Gov. Bob Riley will sign a proclamation at the State House on June 12 that will recognize the challenges faced by deaf-blind individuals and reaffirm the spirit of the Alabama Deaf-Blind Coalition.

The coalition is an interagency agreement among 13 statewide organizations whose purpose is to mobilize all available resources to meet the multiple needs of individuals who are deaf/blind.

"In this year of budget cuts that are across the board for state agencies, it is important that we reaffirm our shared responsibility in serving individuals who are deaf and blind," said Jim Carden, assistant commissioner for Blind/Deaf Services for the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services. "It emphasizes the theory that the sum is greater than its parts."

The proclamation acknowledges the influence of Helen Keller, an Alabama native and one of the best-known deaf-blind individuals. It will proclaim that it is appropriate for the state of Alabama to recognize the needs of deaf-blind individuals and to provide the same opportunities for success and accomplishments that Helen Keller achieved.

The agencies collaborating in this coalition include the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services, the State Department of Education, the Alabama Department of Public Health, the Alabama Health Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, the Alabama Department of Human Resources, the Alabama Medicaid Agency, the Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind, the Governor's Office on Disabilities, the Alabama Council for Developmental Disabilities, Alabama Association of Deaf-Blind, the Alabama Commission on Higher Education, the Commission on Aging and the state Deaf/Blind Multi-handicapped Association.

The proclamation will be signed at 3 p.m. at the Old Archives Room, located on the second floor of the State Capitol. Please arrive at the proclamation signing ceremony no later than 2:30 p.m. to be seated by 2:45.